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THE HON. SRIMATHI JOTHI VENCATACHELLUM :—" (*a*) The total quantity of petrol allotted for use by the Prohibition department in the South Arcot district was 2,000 gallons in 1952 and 2,200 gallons in 1953; and the quantity consumed was 1,584 gallons and 1,874 gallons respectively.

" (*b*) The reasons for the difference in consumption in 1952 were that two of the jeeps allotted to the District were out of the road for want of tyres and tubes and due to major repairs. In 1953, also, these two jeeps continued to be out of the road till September. Besides this one more jeep and one van were out of the road for want of tyres and tubes."

SRI K. ARANGANATHAN :—" During the last session, Sir, when I put the question regarding the number of vehicles that were put out of order and hence not in use, the answer was given then by the Hon. Minister concerned that everything was in order. Now the Hon. Minister says that a considerable number, more than two vehicles, were out of order and there was less consumption of petrol also. When such is the attitude of the Government in helping the Prohibition forces to check Prohibition offences, how can the Prohibition staff effectively check Prohibition offences? "

THE HON. SRIMATHI JOTHI VENCATACHELLUM :—" Sir, the answer given last time was till September. Some vehicles and vans went out of order after the time the answer was given to the hon. Member."

Supply of water from Singadivakkam tank for irrigation purposes.

* 231 *Q.*—SRI S. DEIVASIGAMANY: Will the Hon. the Minister for Land Revenue be pleased to state— 10-10 a.m.

(*a*) whether the ryots of Thirumalpet village, Parandur firka, Kancheepuram, Chingleput district, have sent any memorial to him complaining

(i) that the water from Singadivakkam tank intended for the irrigation of their lands in Thirumalpet village actually flows into the channel leading to Singadivakkam village, which is on a lower level; and

(ii) that the channel would remain utterly useless to them, if water is not let out into their channel straight from inside the tank or by means of a separate sluice, instead of collecting water in a common cement reservoir and then letting it out through separate apertures; and

(*b*) the steps taken by the Government to remedy the defects?

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU NAICKER :—"(*a*) & (*b*) The petition from the ryots of Thirumalpet village presented by the hon. Member is separately under the consideration of the Government."

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Sri S. DEIVASIGAMANY :—" Sir, in view of the urgency of the matter will the Government take up the matter and remedy the defect immediately? If it is not possible for the Government to spend money on this now, will the Government take money from the ryots and do the necessary work? "

The Hon. Sri M. A. MANICKAVELU NAICKER :— " I understand the Collector has made his report. We are awaiting the report from the Board of Revenue with their remarks."

Appointment of Prohibition Sub-Inspectors.

* 232 Q.—Sri M. DHARMALINGAM : Will the Hon. the Minister for Prohibition be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that many junior clerks in the Excise department were recruited as Prohibition Sub-Inspectors overlooking the claims of seniors;

(b) if so, how many and the reasons therefor;

(c) whether any Harijans were recruited;

(d) if so, how many were regularized;

(e) how many were not regularized;

(f) whether any preferential treatment was given to Harijans under Article 335 of the Constitution of India; and

(g) whether any junior Prohibition Sub-Inspectors recruited from the Excise department have been promoted as gazetted officers; and if so, how many?

The Hon. Srimathi JOTHI VENCATACHELLUM :— " (a) & (b) The appointment of 11 clerks as Sub-Inspectors involved the passing over of their seniors. The reasons are that the selection of clerks for the Sub-Inspectors' posts is made on the basis of merit and ability, seniority being considered only when merit and ability are approximately equal. Only those who are approved probationers as clerks and who possess the prescribed physical qualifications are eligible for appointment. They should also be temperamentally suitable for such appointment.

" (c) to (f) No Harijan was appointed as Sub-Inspector of Prohibition as no suitable Harijan candidates were available for appointment.

" (g) No, Sir."

Sri S. DEIVASIGAMANY :—" In view of the declared policy of the Government that the work connected with Prohibition is going to be entrusted to the Police department, may I know from the Hon. the Minister for Prohibition what is to happen to Prohibition Sub-Inspectors? "

The Hon. Srimathi JOTHI VENCATACHELLUM :— " They will also be absorbed in the Police department."